

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of September 8, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-46 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 47-51 have been added. Claims 47-51 are objected to claims 31, 37, 42, 43, and 46 that have been rewritten into independent form. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that dependent claims 31, 37, 42-43, and 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants added new claims 47-51 that represent formerly dependent claims 31, 37, 42, 43, and 46 rewritten into independent form.

Claims 27-30, 32-36, 38-41, and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Delaney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,937,574). Applicants have canceled claims 27-30, 32-36, 38-41, and 44-45 without prejudice or disclaimer. As such, the pending rejection of claims is moot.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to one or more of the canceled claims during pendency of the present application.

App. No.: 09/653,201
Response dated January 6, 2006
Supplemental Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2005

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. No fee is believed due, however, if any fees are required or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733. Applicants look forward to passage to issue of the present application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
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